MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

November 7, 2002

Meeting held at:	Mailing address is:
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room	Balboa Park Administration
2150 Pan American Road	2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92101	San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE;

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Staff Absent
Laurie Burgett		Michael Behan	
Darlene Davies		DeVere Brasted	
Vicki Granowitz		Charlie Daniels	
Jeffrey Kirsch		Kathleen Hasenauer	
Dan Mazzella			
Nancy Rodriguez			
Paul Rucci			
Joe Silverman			
Warren Simon			
Michael Stepner			
Jeffery Tom			

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mazzella called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2002 MEETING. (SILVERMAN/RODRIGUEZ 10-0)

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Betty Peabody extended an invitation to all of the Balboa Park Committee members to attend the Balboa Park Millennium Society luncheon on November 19, at the Balboa Park Club.

John Wadas distributed a packet of information on the proposed Balboa Park Interactive Information Kiosks and gave a brief presentation on the project which is a collaborative effort between the Balboa Park Millennium Society and the Park and Recreation Department. Initially five Kiosks will be located in Balboa Park and then additional Kiosks will be installed at strategic areas in San Diego.

Chuck Dunning and Victor Tocco of Fox Television and Telemundo distributed a flyer and briefly discussed a commercial event, Families Celebrating/Familias Celebrando, they are proposing to conduct in Balboa Park on July 12 and 13, 2003.

Gail MacLeod, representing the Zoological Society of San Diego, requested that a sub-committee of the Balboa Park Committee be formed for the Park Boulevard Promenade. The request was a follow-up to the October 16 correspondence sent to Chairperson Mazzella.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Some of the Balboa Park Committee members met at Chairperson Mazzella's home on Saturday, November 2, and were briefed on the October 28 and November 1 interviews for the Parking, Circulation and Land Use Study for the Central Area of Balboa Park. Seven consultants presented their qualifications to the panel and provided written materials. Copies were provided to the Balboa Park Committee.

Chairperson Mazzella met with Trudy Sopp, Co-Executive Director of THE CENTRE for Organization Effectiveness, to discuss a workshop for the Balboa Park Committee members. The first available date is Thursday, December 5. It is possible that the activities would include lunch and dinner for members prior to the regularly scheduled Balboa Park Committee meeting that evening. Public Notice would be provided.

STAFF REPORT

In the interest of time Staff Reports and the Balboa Park Major Events Update were distributed to the Committee and not orally presented.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Eliminating the Restricted Dog Off-Leash Hours at Grape Street Park
District Manager DeVere Brasted reviewed the Report and Attachments.
Additionally, one memorandum from John Kroll was distributed to the Balboa Park Committee.

Chairperson Mazzella recommended mediation as a tool to resolve neighbor disputes. It is his understanding that some members of the community participated in mediation regarding the dog off-leash issue in the past. He stated that he would have two questions for each speaker. Have you participated in mediation? Are you willing to participate in the mediation process?

He stated that the proponents would speak first and then the opponents. Each speaker would be timed and would have three minutes or fifteen minutes per group. A signal light was used to advise the speakers of the time limits.

Proponents

- 1. Judy Goe, visits the park with her dog and feels longer off-leash hours are more useful. No/Yes.
- 2. Dianna Sickler, a Golden Hill resident since 1965, has had a dog for a year, visits the park and is in favor of the expanded off-leash hours. No/Yes.
- 3. Daisy Kaplan read a letter from a fifteen year resident of Golden Hill who feels safer with her dog, enjoys exercise and friendship at the park. Yes/Yes.
- 4. Jan Rawlins, a twenty five year resident of Golden Hill has dogs, uses the park during off-leash and leash hours, would like the hours extended. No/Yes.
- 5. Inge Brauer, a sixteen year resident of Golden Hill did not use the park initially due to negative activities. The park is used by persons without dogs and she favors extending the off-leash hours. No/Yes.
- 6. Richard Donovan, an Attorney, is a seven month Golden Hill resident who visits the park. He would like the rules posted. Dissension in the community is a result of litigation. No/Yes.
- 7. Beverly Davis, a twenty year resident of Golden Hill, read two letters from those who were unable to attend the meeting due to a training for service dogs. The persons who travel from Mira Mesa are in favor of extended off-leash hours. Yes/Yes.
- 8. Diana Langley, a fifteen year resident of Golden Hill stated that the City Council did not address off-leash hours at the park. The first two years, the hours were unlimited and no complaints were lodged. The third year, complaints were registered and the hours were restricted. Yes/Yes.
- 9. 11. Speakers left and did not speak.
- 12. Gina Espinoza-Price, a North Park resident, has been coming to the park for a year and she states it is not used during the day. She favors expansion of the off-leash hours. No/Yes.
- 13. Craighton Cooper, a Golden Hill resident since 2000, has had a dog for ten months. He favors expansion of the off-leash hours. No/Yes.

- 14. Don Steele, a retired Park and Recreation Department employee, cited the City of Poway Dog Park as a model. The 1.75 acre site is fenced, well maintained and offers flexibility. He distributed a June 7 memorandum to Mayor Murphy regarding Off-Leash Dog Park Issues. He supports the staff recommendation. No/Yes.
- 15. Stephanie Brasich, a North Park resident, drives one and a half miles with her large dog to visit the park. She feels the dog owners are responsible and finds the off-leash hours challenging. No/Yes.
- 16. Mark Wiedenhoff, a Code Enforcement Officer, and dog owner for ten months feels the off-leash hours should be amended. No/Yes.
- 17. Teagan McClain supports lifting the hours restriction. She thinks of the park users as an extended family. No/Yes. Her mother, speaker #18, agrees. Yes/Yes.
- 18. Speaker did not speak.
- 19. Tim Doyle, who works at the South Park Dog Wash, said mediation failed, the opposition rotates and the City needs to resolve the issue. Yes/Yes

Opponents

- 1. Amalia "Mollie" Solorzaw, who has a disability and lives one and a half blocks from the park, distributed two pages of photos. She stated that she filed a complaint and Disabled Access was provided. She discussed other areas and access issues. No/Yes
- 2. 3. Speakers did not speak.
- 4. Anthony F. Mournian said that the park is regional and that dogs can go to the parks as long as they are leashed. He opposes twenty-four hour off-leash areas such as Morley Field and Nate's Point. Yes/No.
- 5. Susan Mournian, a Clairemont resident, has income property in District 6. She would support Alternative #2. Twenty-four off-leash options are available in Balboa park. No/Yes.
- 6. Speaker deferred his time to his wife, Speaker #7.
- 7. Karen Dietz lives across the street from the park and opposes eliminating the existing off-leash hours. She cited traffic concerns, the shared use seems fair, dog owners are a special interest group, neighbors support increased lighting of the park and that most calls for enforcement are related to off-leash issues. No/Yes.
- 8. Laura Emerick cited the necessity for fencing, changes implemented for a safe, clean accessible area, support for Alternative #2 if the requirements for the park were the same as other off-leash areas. She said the park is not a picnic site due to the dog use. Yes/Yes
- 9. St. Clair Adams said that the City Council did consider the park hours. The community is divided and lives have been disrupted. Mediation is a good step. All members need to be a part of the community. Yes/Yes.
- 10. Speaker deferred his time to his wife, Speaker #8. No/Yes.

- 11. Nancy Schoenmakers, a South Park resident, lives one and a half blocks away from the park and feels the impact of traffic and noise. She is a dog owner who enjoys the park and feels the compromise is working. She does not favor unrestricted use, but would opt for winter hours. No/Yes.
- 12. Marisol Lopez feels the park use by the dogs off-leash has affected the lives of neighbors and families. The area is an unclean, environmental hazard. No/Yes.

Balboa Park Committee Member/Staff Comments

Laurie Burgett stated that this has been a very complicated issue for the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee. Three distinct issues that need to be addressed are the need for a leash free area in the City, what are the rights of those that live next to a park and what are the rights of the neighborhood. Balboa Park is a regional park as well as a neighborhood park. The Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee has tried to mediate and use creative solutions. Park Planning should be involved, as well as identifying funding and getting people and programs such as concerts into the park.

Joe Silverman noted that few speakers suggested Morley Field as an off-leash site. The Balboa Park Morley Field Recreation Council is reviewing the current status of the area and will then forward their recommendations to the Balboa Park Committee.

Jeffery Tom requested clarification on the June 11, 2002 City Council action. Transfer of funding was provided for ADA access for a ramp, and water fountain, as well as a dog water fountain at Grape Street Park. An architect was hired to look at access and fencing for Nate's Point.

Michael Stepner is concerned that the decision has not made people happy. It is necessary for a Park Designer to recommend possible improvements. A funding source needs to be identified for the project.

Michael Behan said that Park Designers have looked at the issue. Successful areas have been fenced. Dogs are allowed in the parks while on a leash at anytime. Park Designers have recommended that off-leash areas be cordoned off from other use.

Nancy Rodriguez requested clarification of the process. The recommendation of the Balboa Park Committee will be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Board, then to the Land Use and Housing Sub-Committee, then onto the City Council.

Div Brasted stated that the Balboa Park Committee will also hear issues related to Nate's Point and Morley Field Off-Leash areas.

Dan Mazzella summarized comments heard this evening. The concept of thinking outside of the box, looking at design issues and not just hours for the park are important. It is essential that community live together as neighbors. Both groups did well expressing their viewpoints. Dan reiterated that mediation is a useful tool. He wishes to obtain further information on this topic per Laurie Burgett's suggestion.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED TO RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE #2 DEFINING THE LEASH FREE AREA AT GRAPE STREET PARK, DELINEATE THE AREA AND INCREASE THE OFF-LEASH HOURS.

MSC IT MOVED/SECONDED, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO AMEND THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE #2 WITH INPUT FROM A PARK DESIGNER TO DEFINE A LEASH FREE AREA AT GRAPE STREET PARK, DELINEATE THAT AREA AND INCREASE THE HOURS FOR OFFLEASH WITHIN THAT AREA TO 7:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M. DAILY. (KIRSCH/RODRIGUEZ 10-0)

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

Balboa Park Parking, Circulation and Land Use Study
Charlie Daniels of Park Planning distributed the Project Status Report which noted the Recent Mile Stones, Activity for the Month and Future Steps. The results of the Consultants' interviews are being formulated and the scores finalized to present the information to the Park and Recreation Director and the City Manger. Point values were assigned to each question. It is estimated that it will take two to three months to negotiate a fee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Michael Stepner distributed a memorandum to the Balboa park Committee members on the Balboa Park Master Plan Update-Some Notes and Comments on the Process. In response to Nancy Rodriguez's question regarding any time frame issues, Mike indicated he would like to work with the one year goal that the Park and Recreation Department has established.

Jeffrey Kirsch inquired about the Nolan Master Plan and the existence of the document. He is unaware of any official document and wondered if the design was viable.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Mazzella at 9:50 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting Thursday, December 5, 2002

6:30 P.M.

Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room

2150 Pan America Road San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Behan Staff Representative

KH/tbg